

3.2: The Product and Quotient Rules

Rule 5: The Product Rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x) \cdot g(x)] = f'(x) \cdot g(x) + f(x) \cdot g'(x)$$

Note:

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x) \cdot g(x)] \neq f'(x) \cdot g'(x)$$

Example. Find the derivative of the following functions

- by expanding (← omitted)
- by using the product rule

$$f(x) = (2x^2 - 1)(x + 3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} [2x^2 - 1] (x + 3) + (2x^2 - 1) \frac{d}{dx} [x + 3] \\ &= 4x(x + 3) + (2x^2 - 1)(1) \\ &= 4x^2 + 12x + 2x^2 - 1 \\ &= \boxed{6x^2 + 12x - 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$g(x) = x^3(\sqrt{x} + 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} [x^3] (\sqrt{x} + 1) + x^3 \frac{d}{dx} [\sqrt{x} + 1] \\ &= 3x^2 (\sqrt{x} + 1) + x^3 \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \\ &= 3x^{5/2} + 3x^2 + \frac{1}{2} x^{5/2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{7}{2} x^{5/2} + 3x^2} \end{aligned}$$

Note:

$$\frac{d}{dx}[fghj] = f'ghj + fg'hj + fgh'j + fghj'$$

Rule 6: The Quotient Rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{g(x)f'(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$$

“Lo De Hi, minus Hi De Lo, over the square of what’s below”

Example. Find the derivative of the following functions

$$f(x) = \frac{3x^2 - 4x + 7}{x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{x \frac{d}{dx} [3x^2 - 4x + 7] - (3x^2 - 4x + 7) \frac{d}{dx} [x]}{x^2} = \frac{x(6x - 4) - (3x^2 - 4x + 7)}{x^2} \\ &= \frac{6x^2 - 4x - 3x^2 + 4x - 7}{x^2} = \frac{3x^2 - 7}{x^2} = \boxed{3 - \frac{7}{x^2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$g(x) = \frac{x}{2x - 4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= \frac{(2x - 4) \frac{d}{dx} [x] - x \frac{d}{dx} [2x - 4]}{(2x - 4)^2} = \frac{(2x - 4) - x \cdot 2}{(2x - 4)^2} \\ &= \frac{2x - 4 - 2x}{(2x - 4)^2} = \boxed{\frac{-4}{(2x - 4)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$h(x) = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x^2 - 1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= \frac{(x^2-1) \frac{d}{dx}[x^2+1] - (x^2+1) \frac{d}{dx}[x^2-1]}{(x^2-1)^2} = \frac{(x^2-1) 2x - (x^2+1) 2x}{(x^2-1)^2} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{2x^3} - 2x - \cancel{2x^3} - 2x}{(x^2-1)^2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{-4x}{(x^2-1)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$j(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x^2 + 1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} j'(x) &= \frac{(x^2+1) \frac{d}{dx}[x^{1/2}] - x^{1/2} \frac{d}{dx}[x^2+1]}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{(x^2+1)^{1/2} x^{-1/2} - x^{1/2} \cdot 2x}{(x^2+1)^2} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2} x^{3/2} + \frac{1}{2} x^{-1/2} - 2x^{3/2}}{(x^2+1)^2} \\ &= \frac{-\frac{3}{2} x^{3/2} + \frac{1}{2} x^{-1/2}}{(x^2+1)^2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{-3x^{3/2} + x^{-1/2}}{2(x^2+1)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$k(x) = \frac{3x(x^2 + 1)}{x^2 - 1}$$

Use the product rule here

$$k'(x) = \frac{(x^2 - 1) \frac{d}{dx} [3x(x^2 + 1)] - 3x(x^2 + 1) \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 - 1]}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

This is the product rule

$$= \frac{(x^2 - 1) \left(3x \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 + 1] + \frac{d}{dx} [3x] (x^2 + 1) \right) - 3x(x^2 + 1) 2x}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(x^2 - 1) (3x \cdot 2x + 3(x^2 + 1)) - 3x(x^2 + 1) 2x}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(x^2 - 1) (6x^2 + 3x^2 + 3) - 6x^2(x^2 + 1)}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \frac{x^2(9x^2 + 3) - 1(9x^2 + 3) - 6x^4 - 6x^2}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \frac{9x^4 + 3x^2 - 9x^2 - 3 - 6x^4 - 6x^2}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{3x^4 - 12x^2 - 3}{(x^2 - 1)^2}}$$